

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks. The specification is amended to add the word "post" when describing features 102 and 116. Claim 1 is amended to include the language from allowed claim 6 which has been canceled. Claim 4 is rewritten into independent form. Claim 7 is amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 8 is rewritten into independent form. Claim 9 is amended to include the language from allowed claim 23 which has been canceled. Claim 17 is rewritten into independent form, and to change the word "shaft" to "post". Claims 1-5, 7-10, 17, and 19-22 are pending.

### **Telephone Interview**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the brief telephone interview conducted on January 2, 2008 with the undersigned. During the interview, Applicant proposed changing the word "shaft" to "post" in claim 17, along with the addition of the word "post" to the description. The Examiner indicated that such a change would be acceptable.

### **Deletion of Inventors Under 37 CFR 1.48(b)**

Applicants request acknowledgement that the request for deletion of inventors filed on December 22, 2006 has been received and approved.

### **35 USC §103(a) Rejections:**

Claims 1- 3, 9, 10, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (US 5,771, 058) in view of Gilliam et al. (US 5,699,601).

Claims 4-8, 17, 19, 20 and 23 are indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. In view of the amendments indicated above, the claims should now be in immediate condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, James A. Larson (Reg. No. 40,443), at (612) 455-3805.

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By: 

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